

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION to honor Mayor Steve Luecke for his service and commitment to the city and citizens of South Bend.

**BRODEN, ARNOLD, ZAKAS,
MISHLER**

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

A SENATE RESOLUTION to honor Mayor Steve Luecke for his service and commitment to the city and citizens of South Bend.

Whereas, Stephen J. Luecke, the longest-serving mayor in South Bend's history, was appointed as the city's 31st Mayor in January 1997 to complete the unexpired term of Joe Kernan, who moved on to become Lieutenant Governor of Indiana. Luecke was elected by wide margins to three additional mayoral terms of his own and will have served nearly 15 years as mayor when he leaves office January 1, 2012;

Whereas, Previously, Luecke served nine years as a member of the South Bend Common Council, including two terms as its president, representing the 1st District on South Bend's northwest side;

Whereas, During Luecke's 15 years at South Bend's helm, he helped guide the city's transition from its manufacturing legacy to a new economy rooted in technology and research. He spearheaded the demolition of nearly 4 million square feet of obsolete buildings in the former



Studebaker Corridor and strengthened partnerships with leading community institutions, including the University of Notre Dame. These efforts came together as South Bend created Indiana's first dual-site, state-certified technology park consisting of Innovation Park at Notre Dame and Ignition Park on the grounds of the former Studebaker Corporation. Three years after it was conceived, Ignition Park already is home to what is expected to be the nation's first LEED Platinum-designated transit facility and soon will welcome a world-class data center;

Whereas, In addition, an unprecedented municipal commitment of \$50 million to support commercialization of products in South Bend helped Notre Dame secure a national nanoelectronics research center, the Midwest Institute for Nanoelectronics Discovery. Luecke helped develop a Business Growth Initiative partnership with The Chamber of Commerce, in which a representative of the City and the Chamber made hundreds of visits to South Bend businesses to remove obstacles to local expansion and job creation. An additional partnership, also involving Project Future, led South Bend to become the first U.S. city to create a broadband network, the Metronet, using its traffic conduit;

Whereas, As a union carpenter and small businessman who restored historic homes and managed rehabilitation projects for a community development corporation, Luecke brought his passion for neighborhood revitalization to public office. During his tenure, South Bend twice won the National League of Cities' Gold Award for Municipal Excellence for neighborhood revitalization efforts- in 2002 for the West Side Neighborhood Revitalization and in 2010 for the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization. He created an inter-agency Neighborhood Task Force, which daily resolves issues related to problem properties. Luecke's commitment to historic preservation earned South Bend a White House designation in 2008 as a Preserve America



Community. At the same time, the City demolished more than 500 abandoned houses in response to the national crisis.

Whereas, Under Luecke's oversight, South Bend's municipal government became leaner and greener even as the City invested in new infrastructure and became regarded nationally as a laboratory to pilot test private-sector research. New technology improved government efficiency through systems like CSOnet, South Bend's first in the world use of technology to monitor and control combined sewer overflows. Facing one of the state's largest revenue losses as a result of property tax caps, Luecke made more than \$11 million in strategic spending cuts while increasing revenue to prevent massive erosion of services and sustain public-safety personnel at full strength. Luecke's actions led to two improved bond ratings from national credit rating agencies;

Whereas, During his tenure, the City built or renovated more public facilities than any previous mayor. They include a new Fire Department headquarters, two fire stations, an expanded Police headquarters, a Public Works Service Center, a new Studebaker National Museum and a neighborhood water park. Plans for this year include a new animal shelter, enhancements to Coveleski Regional Stadium and two new fire stations. He also initiated a community process that led to the development of City Plan, a 20-year comprehensive plan for South Bend;

Whereas, The City's participation in the public-private restoration of the Morris Performing Arts Center and the Palais Royale ballroom helped spark a downtown renaissance with new private commercial and residential investment in the city's core. New shopping districts emerged on the city's northwest and south sides. City investments demolished a failing mall and turned a former landfill into a successful shopping center, terminating its TIF area 15 years ahead of schedule. Incidents of major crime citywide have



fallen 39 percent since Luecke took office, reaching at least 40-year lows; and

Whereas, Luecke's pledge to reduce the city's impact on global warming provided the spark for several environmental efforts that led to South Bend's designation as Indiana's Green Community of the Year in 2009. His direction to complete the riverwalk along the St. Joseph River and add 50 miles of bicycle lanes and routes helped earn South Bend a national designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community. With Luecke's support, South Bend became the only Indiana community selected by the Salvation Army for a world-class Kroc Community Center, a \$52.5-million investment in the community. The City also supported the renovation of the former Engman Natatorium into the Indiana University South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center. Twice named an All-America City finalist, South Bend has become a more innovative, dynamic and progressive city under Steve Luecke's leadership: therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Senate of the Indiana General Assembly does
- 2 hereby recognize the hard work and dedication that Mayor Steve
- 3 Luecke has shown to the citizens and city of South bend.
- 4 SECTION 2. That the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit copies
- 5 of this resolution to Mayor Steve Luecke.

